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## Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

**Second session**
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda
**Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol: reporting mechanism**

# Draft decision II/1 on reporting requirements

*Summary*

This document contains a draft decision on reporting requirements prepared on the basis of decision I/5 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its first session (Geneva, 20–22 April 2010).

The Bureau of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs considered the document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2–3 July 2013) and submitted it for further consideration to the Working Group of the Parties. At its third meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2013), the Working Group of the Parties approved the draft decision on the reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/9) and mandated the Bureau to finalize paras 1, 4, 6 and 7, in the light of the availability of national implementation reports before the formal deadline, and to submit it for adoption to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

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*The Meeting of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 17, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which states, inter alia, that the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties and, with this purpose in mind, will establish guidelines facilitating reporting by the Parties, taking into account the experience gained under the Convention,

*Also recalling* decision I/5 of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, through which the Parties established a reporting mechanism to monitor the progress in implementation of the provisions of the Protocol,

*Recognizing* that regular reporting by Parties provides important contextual information which facilitates the assessment of compliance under the Protocol and thereby contributes to the work of the Compliance Committee,

*Believing* that public involvement in the process of reporting is likely to improve the quality and accuracy of reports and to strengthen the credibility of the reporting process,

*Taking into account* the objective of a simple, concise and not excessively burdensome reporting mechanism,

*Noting* that this decision concerns reporting by Parties on how they have implemented the requirements of the Protocol and is distinct from the reporting required under article 7 of the Protocol,

*Considering* that the reporting procedure as set out in decision I/5 should continue to apply for the next reporting cycle,

*Emphasizing* the importance of timely submission of reports,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the implementation reports submitted by more than three quarters of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters pursuant to decision I/5;

2. *Welcomes* the synthesis report prepared by the Bureau and the Compliance Committee;

3. *Considers* that these reports provide a valuable overview of the status of implementation of the Protocol, as well as significant trends and challenges, which will help to guide future activities;

**Timely submission of reports**

4. *Notes* that some Parties that submitted reports did not do so within the deadline indicated in decision I/5;

5. *Reiterates its encouragement* of Parties to start the preparation of national implementation reports in future reporting cycles sufficiently in advance of, and at the latest seven months before, the deadline for submission of the reports to the secretariat set out in decision I/5, with a view of ensuring meaningful public consultation on the reports at the national level;

**Failure to submit reports**

6. *Notes with regret* that Albania, Cyprus, the European Union, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Slovenia, all of which were Parties to the Convention at the time of the deadline for submission of the implementation reports, failed to submit reports;

7. *Calls upon* those Parties that have not yet submitted their national implementation reports to submit them to the secretariat by 1 October 2014, for subsequent consideration, inter alia, by the Compliance Committee;

**Public Consultation**

8. *Welcomes* the fact that most Parties prepared their reports through a process involving consultations with various governmental agencies as well as civil society;

9. *Requests* each Party to prepare its reports on implementation of the Protocol through a transparent and consultative process involving the public in a timely manner, taking account of specific circumstances pertaining to regional economic integration organizations;

**Guidance on reporting requirements**

10. *Also requests* each Party to submit to the secretariat, in advance of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties so as to arrive no later than five months before the session of the Meeting of the Parties for which it is submitted, a report on:

(a) The necessary legislative, regulatory or other measures that it has taken to implement the provisions of the Protocol;

(b) The practical implementation of these measures at the national or, in the case of regional integration organizations, the regional level, using the format set out in the annex to decision I/5;

11. *Further requests* each Party in advance of each subsequent ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to review its report and to prepare and submit to the secretariat new information and, where available, a consolidated national implementation report;

12. *Encourages* Parties, Signatories and other States to submit implementation reports through the electronic reporting application developed by the secretariat, and in accordance with the instructions provided by the secretariat.

13. *Requests* Parties, in addition to online reporting, to submit signed hard copies of the reports to the secretariat by post;

14. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate to all Parties and relevant stakeholders a formal reminder of the reporting requirements, including guidance on the preparation of the reports as well as the proposed timing and confirmation of the date for the submission of the reports, to the secretariat in accordance with decision I/5, at least one year in advance of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties;

15. *Invites* Signatories and other States not Party to the Protocol, pending their ratification or accession, to submit reports on measures taken to apply the Protocol in accordance with the aforementioned procedures;

16. *Invites* international, regional and non-governmental organizations engaged in programmes or activities providing support to Parties and/or other States in the implementation of the Protocol to provide the secretariat with reports on their programmes or activities and lessons learned, as well as on implementation of the Protocol itself;

17. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties summarizing the national implementation reports submitted by the Parties and identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions, and to circulate it to the Parties and other stakeholders in due time for its consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

**Translation of the reports**

18. *Decides* to discontinue the decision to process the reports as official documents in the three official languages of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and requests the secretariat to make the reports available in the languages in which they are submitted, and to make the synthesis report available in the three ECE official languages;

19. *Encourages* Parties that are in a position to do so to provide voluntary translations of the reports in the other two ECE languages. Those Parties that do so are invited to provide the translations preferably not later than one month after the original submission deadline;

20. *Requests* the secretariat to make any unofficial translations of the reports available online.